Dated: December 9, 1997.

**Eve M. Bither,**

*Executive Director.*

[FR Doc. 97–32598 Filed 12–12–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–M

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Office of Energy Research; Energy Research Financial Assistance Program Notice 98–06; Plasma Physics Junior Faculty Development Program

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Notice inviting grant applications.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Fusion Energy Sciences (OFES) of the Office of Energy Research (OER), U.S. Department of Energy hereby announces its interest in receiving grant applications for support under its Plasma Physics Junior Faculty Development Program. Applications should be from tenure-track faculty investigators who are currently involved in experimental or theoretical plasma physics research and should be submitted through a U.S. academic institution. The purpose of this program is to support the development of the individual research programs of exceptionally talented scientists and engineers early in their careers.

**DATES:** To permit timely consideration for awards in FY 1998, formal applications in response to this notice should be received on or before March 4, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Completed formal applications referencing Program Notice 98–06 should be forwarded to: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Research, Grants and Contracts Division, ER–64, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, Maryland 20874–1290, ATTN: Program Notice 98–06. The above address must also be used when submitting applications by U.S. Postal Service Express, and commercial mail delivery service or when hand carried by the applicant.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Ronald McKnight, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fusion Energy Sciences, Science Division, ER–55, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, Maryland 20874–1290. Telephone: (301) 903–4597. E-mail: ron.mcknight@oer.doe.gov

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Plasma Physics Junior Faculty Development Program was started in FY 1997. A principal goal of this program is to identify exceptionally talented plasma faculty members early in their careers and assist and facilitate the development of their research programs. Eligibility for awards under this notice is, therefore, restricted to tenure-track regular academic faculty investigators who are conducting experimental or theoretical plasma physics research. Emphasis is to be placed on basic plasma science research. For applications to be considered for funding, certification of the status of the applicant as a tenure-track regular academic faculty member by the head of the applicant's academic department or other university/college certifying official will be required before the grant is awarded. Awards made under this program will help to maintain the vitality of university plasma physics research and assure continued excellence in the teaching of plasma physics and related disciplines. Applications from Junior Faculty involved in any areas of plasma physics research, not only magnetic fusion, are welcomed and encouraged.

It is anticipated that annual funding levels up to $150,000 per award may be made available for grants under this notice during FY 1998, contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. Funding for equipment above this level will be considered on a case-by-case basis. DOE may make up to four awards during FY 1998, depending on the number of meritorious applications and the availability of appropriated funds. Multiple year funding of grant awards is expected, with funding provided on an annual basis subject to availability of funds. These grants will not normally be renewed after the project period is completed; grantees may, however, submit new grant applications to continue their research using the usual Departmental grant application process. Applications will be subjected to formal merit review and will be evaluated against the following criteria, which are listed in descending order of importance as set forth in 10 CFR Part 605:

1. Scientific and/or technical merit of the project;
2. Appropriateness of the proposed method or approach;
3. Competency of applicant's personnel and adequacy of proposed resources; and
4. Reasonableness and appropriateness of the proposed budget.

General information about development and submission of applications, eligibility, limitations, evaluations and selection processes, and other policies and procedures are contained in the Application Guide for the Office of Energy Research Financial Assistance Program and 10 CFR Part 605 which is available on the World Wide Web at: http://www.er.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html

(The Catalog Of Federal Domestic Assistance Number for this program is 81.049, and the solicitation control number is ERFAP 10 CFR Part 605)

Issued in Washington, DC on December 1, 1997.

**John Rodney Clark,**

*Associate Director for Resource Management, Office of Energy Research.*

[FR Doc. 97–32642 Filed 12–12–97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

**[Docket No. CP98–106–000]**

### Northern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

December 9, 1997.

Take notice that on December 1, 1997, Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern), 1111 South 103rd Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68124–1000, filed in Docket No. CP98–106–000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205 and 157.216 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205 and 157.216) for authorization to abandon a small volume measurement station (farm tap) located in Dodge County, Minnesota, under Northern's blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP82–401–000 pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the request that is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Northern states that it is in the process of replacing its Dodge Center Branchline. Northern states that it has negotiated with the two landowners along the route of the original pipeline regarding service lines to reconnect farm tap facilities. One of the farm tap users elected to reconnect their service line to Northern and will continue to receive service from their local distribution company (LDC). The other farm tap user (City of Dodge Center) elected to disconnect from Northern and has connected their service line directly to the LDC. As a result, Northern is requesting authority to abandon the City of Dodge Center farm tap facility.

Northern states that the proposed activity is not prohibited by its existing tariff and that it has sufficient capacity to accommodate the proposed changes without detriment or disadvantage to Northern's other customers.